

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2976

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2976

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, JO

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN REQUESTS FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM

REF AMMAN 2861

1. GOJ FONMIN SECRETARY-GENERAL HASSAN IBRAHIM TOOK INITIAITVE TO INFORM CHARGE' ON MAY 5 THAT ACTING PRIME MINISTER AMER, IN CONSULTATION WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFARIS, HAS MADE DECISION THAT THREE KHMER EMBASSY DIPLOMATS AND FAMILIES SHOULD LEAVE JORDAN "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE".

2. IBRAHIM SAID THAT GOJ HAS TRIED TO CONVEY THIS DECISION TO KHMER AMBASSADOR AS GENTLY AS POSSIBLE BUT THAT INTERNAL GOJ MEMORANDUM IS VERY CLEAR IN STATEING GOJ DECISION THAT KHMER EMBASSY PERSONNEL SHOULD LEAVE JORDAN AS SOOON AS THEY CAN CONVENIENTLY WIND UP THEIR PERSONAL AFFARIS.

3. IBRAHIM SAID THAT FOJ AWARE THAT KHMER AMBASSADOR IS BEGINNING TO EXPERIENCE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND THAT HIS SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN HAVE BEGUN TO PERFORM ODD JOBS TO HELP FINANCIAL SITUATION.

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4. COMMENT: IN REFTTEL RECOMMENDING PAROLE TO U.S. OF FAMILIES OF THREE KHMER EMBASSY PERSONNEL WHO HAVE REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM, WE DID NOT SUSPECT THAT GOJ WOULD MOVE THIS FAST ON DECISION THAT KHMER DIPLOMATS SHOULD LEAVE JORDAN.

5. KHMER REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN U.S. MAY BE SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED BY PRESENCE IN JORDAN OF POTENTIAL POLITICAL ASYLUM REQUEST FROM THREE-MAN VIETNAMESE EMBASSY STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES (AMMAN 2968, 2972). ONE RVN OFFICER AND TWO RESIDENT RELATIVES OF RVN AMBASSADOR HAVE REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN U.S. (AS WELL AS IN JORDAN). HOWEVER VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR AND ONE MEMBER HIS STAFF AT LEAST HAVE VISAS TO COUNTRIES OUTSIDE JORDAN (NEW ZEALAND AND FRANCE RESPECTIVELY) WHERE THEY INTEND TO JOIN THEIR FAMILIES. THREE KHMER EMBASSY FAMILIES HERE HOWEVER DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY SUCH FAMILY ATTACHMENTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES, OTHER THAN COUNSELOR LEK CHHAN WHO HAS SON STUDYING IN U.S.

6. FOR REASONS ADDUCED IN RECENT CABLES AND POTENTIAL VIETNAM ASYLUM REQUESTS NOTWITHSTANDING, WE CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND THAT KHMER DIPLOMATS BE PAROLED INTO U.S.
SUDDARTH

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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